GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3265
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
WLL IN RURAL SEMI URBAN AREAS
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to introduce WLL technology in Rural and Semi-urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has initiated action against basic telephone operators for not fulfilling their commitment in providing services in rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to deploy Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology in all the rural and semi-urban areas of the country where the demand and viability exists. BSNL has so far deployed 8,59,750 lines of WLL in urban areas and 16,70,550 lines in rural areas as on 31-01-2005.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(d) to (f): Liquidated damages of Rs. 53.75 crore were recovered for delay in commencement of service, non-provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) and Direct Exchange Lines (DELs).